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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, the psalmist's words serve as our motto for today. "This is the day which the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it."—Ps. 118:24. You have all authority in heaven and on earth. You are sovereign Lord of our lives and of our Nation. We submit to Your authority. We seek to serve You together here in this Chamber and in the offices that work to help make the Senators' deliberations run smoothly. We commit to You all that we do and say this day.

Make it a productive day for the Senators. Give them positive attitudes that exude hope. In each difficult impasse, help them seek Your guidance. Draw them closer to You so that, in Your presence, they can rediscover that, in spite of differences in particulars, they are here to serve You and our beloved Nation together. In our Lord and Savior's Name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill, with Senator Bumpers being recognized to offer an amendment related to mining.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow the weekly party conferences to meet. Following the

conferences there will be 10 minutes for closing remarks in relation to the Bumpers amendment. At the expiration of that time, approximately 2:25 p.m., the Senate will proceed to a vote on or in relation to the amendment.

Following that vote, the Senate will continue consideration of the Interior bill. Members are encouraged to offer and debate amendments during Tuesday afternoon's session so the Senate can make good progress on the Interior bill. The Senate may also consider any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business. The distinguished Senator from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we are in morning business. The amount of time has not been designated, but I yield myself 6 minutes. Then, if there are others from our side who wanted to speak, we would move ahead, if that is agreeable.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

Mr. KENNEDY. I am glad to yield to the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. From the standpoint of procedure, I would be pleased if I could be recognized after the distinguished Senators who are seeking recognition. Senator KENNEDY is. Is the Senator from California seeking recognition?

My point is, if I could be third after her?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE SURPLUS IS SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the proposals by House Republican leaders to spend a major portion of the projected budget surplus on tax cuts for the wealthiest citizens gives new meaning to the word "irresponsible." Any such cut would rob Social Security recipients of the retirement benefits they have earned and deserve. Yet the House Republicans want to spend this "surplus" before it even materializes, in an election eve vote-buying scheme of massive proportions. Every Senator on both sides of the aisle who is serious about preserving Social Security for future generations has a duty to reject these outrageous proposals.

Before we spend it, wouldn't it be wise to at least ask where this projected surplus comes from? The answer is clear—and shocking in its meaning. Ninety-eight percent of the ten-year surplus projected by the Congressional Budget Office comes from the Social Security Trust Fund. The issue is not whether we should use the surplus to "save Social Security," the surplus is Social Security. Using those dollars to pay for anything other than retirement benefits for future Social Security recipients would be an act of political grand larceny. The victims would be those hard-working men and women who are counting on Social Security to protect them in their retirement years.

The term "surplus," as it is used in the budget debate, means only that the total amount of revenue received by the Federal Government in a particular year exceeds the total amount that the government will spend in that year. In the current fiscal year, for the first time since 1969, the Federal Government will take in more dollars than it spends. But this so-called "surplus" does not take into consideration any future financial obligations of the Government, such as the obligation to pay Social Security benefits to retirees in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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